

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 1537 - SB 2540

February 2, 2016

SUMMARY OF BILL: Removes standardized testing requirements for grades eight and ten. Retains current standardized testing requirement for high school students in grade eleven. Requires each participating student to have the opportunity to retake the test prior to graduation from high school. Requires the Department of Education (DOE) to create guidelines for local education agencies (LEAs) that shall include provisions related to the release of assessments, and requires LEAs to submit an annual compliance plan regarding such release to DOE by September 1 of each year.

Beginning in the 2016-2017 academic year, the DOE shall provide LEAs access to their students' Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) and end of course assessments including students' answers. Requires LEAs to provide a student and student's parents or guardian with TCAP and end-of-course assessments with answers upon request. Prohibits the release of: any assessment information that will be necessary to validate future assessment administrations; items that are currently being field tested; or related items that are currently protected by copyright statute. Teachers shall also have access to their students' test data and answers.

Beginning in the 2016-2017 academic year, the DOE shall release the TCAP and end-of-course assessment blueprints and methodology to LEAs; and such information shall be posted on the DOE website. Requires the DOE to issue guidance to LEAs related to testing preparation and logistics.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – Net Impact - \$832,100

Funding for this bill in the amount of \$832,100 is included in the Governor's Recommended Budget for FY16-17 (pages A-40 and B-86).

Assumptions:

- DOE will require one additional test coordinator to oversee the release of test items and related materials. The recurring increase in state expenditures for new personnel (salary, benefits, supplies, other) is estimated to be \$100,000.
- Based on information from DOE, the department will annually develop test booklets for the subjects of science, math, and English language arts. These booklets will be redacted

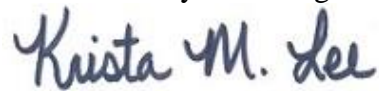
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for linking items, field test items, and copyrighted materials. Based on data from DOE, the recurring increase in state expenditures to annually develop test booklets is estimated to be \$1,275,000.

- The DOE will develop expanded student response reports for each student in the subjects of science, social studies, math, and English language arts; a recurring increase in state expenditures estimated to be \$787,500.
- Students in the 11th grade will take the ACT or SAT each year as their standardized test.
- Based off the statewide demographic data, DOE estimates that 14,420 students will retake the ACT or SAT annually. This number is estimated to remain relatively constant over time.
- The state will be required to pay the cost for the 14,420 students to retake the ACT or SAT each year at a cost of \$39.50 per test.
- The recurring increase in state expenditures relative to 11th grade ACT or SAT retakes is estimated to be \$569,590 ($\$39.50 \times 14,420$).
- The total recurring increase in state expenditures is estimated to be \$2,732,090 ($\$100,000 + \$1,275,000 + \$787,500 + \$569,590$).
- Elimination of the EXPLORE and PLAN standardized tests in grades 8 and 10 will decrease recurring state expenditures by an amount estimated to be \$1,900,000.
- The net recurring increase in state expenditures is estimated to be \$832,090 ($\$2,732,090 - \$1,900,000$).
- Funding in the amount of \$832,100 is included in the Governor's FY16-17 recommended budget on pages A-40 and B-86.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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